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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

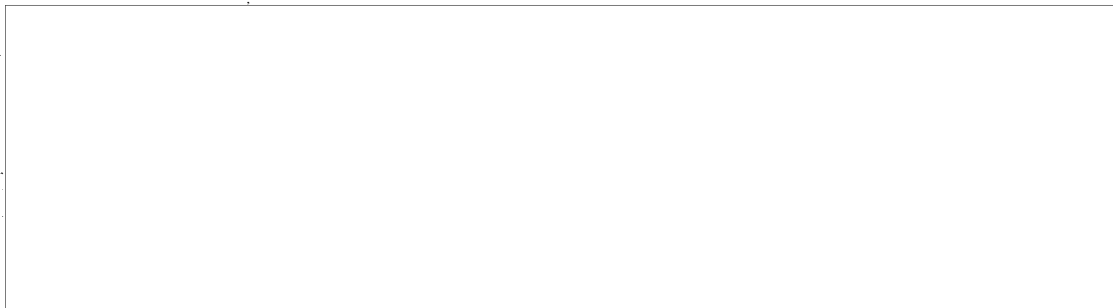
BLAGODATNOYE
AMMUNITION DEPOT SOUTH
AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS
NEAR BLAGODATNOYE, USSR



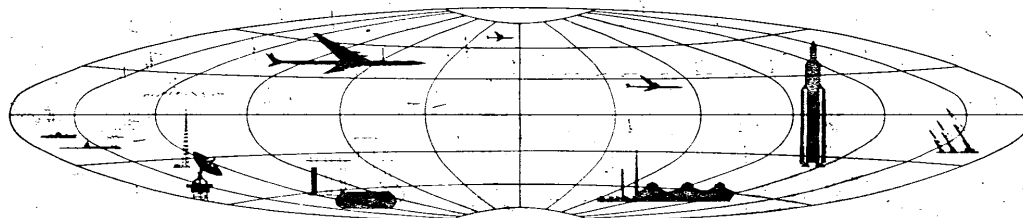
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BLAGODATNOYE AMMUNITION DEPOT SOUTH AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS NEAR BLAGODATNOYE, USSR

SUMMARY

The munitions storage site near Blagodatnoye, USSR (BE designation: Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot South), appears essentially the same on photography of June 1963 as it did on photography of April 1954. Only one storage building has been removed and two possible warehouses have been added in the warehouse area during the intervening time. Approximately 12 buildings have been built in the servicing and administration area adjacent to the warehouse area. The five groups of bunkers are apparently unchanged since photography of December 1956. The bunkers gave the impression of being little used at that time, a condition that still prevails.

A small new site has been built 1.5 nautical miles (nm) south of the depot. The site has no obvious association with either the depot or grids located in the vicinity, but it is possible that the site could be a developmental or testing facility for munitions.

Three grids have been observed in the general vicinity of the depot. Only Grid No 2 is visible on photography of September 1961. Both Grids No 1 and No 2 are visible on photography of April 1962. Grid No 3 is barely discernible on photography of June 1963 but is probably about the same age as the other two grids. A probable fenced area near Grid No 3 contains 16 possible fuel tanks.

INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this report is to update the description of Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot South (44-16N 132-06E). The site of the depot has been described in an earlier report 1/ which was based on poor-quality 1954 and 1956 WINDFALL photography. The present report, based on 1963 KEYHOLE photography, contains a description of the changes which have occurred since 1956 and also reveals the presence of certain objects which, though present in 1954 and 1956, were not readily discernible at that time. For example, three groups of bunkers west of the depot's warehouse area were not illustrated in the previous

report, but they were present at the time of the 1954 photography. Also, parts of the servicing and administration area are obscure on the 1954 and 1956 photography so that it is not possible to make a detailed, valid comparison of these areas with the same areas observed on KEYHOLE photography of 1963.

The second purpose of the report is to describe three grids, a new site, and a probable fenced area in the vicinity of the Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot South. The location of these installations and their spatial relationship is shown in Figure 1.

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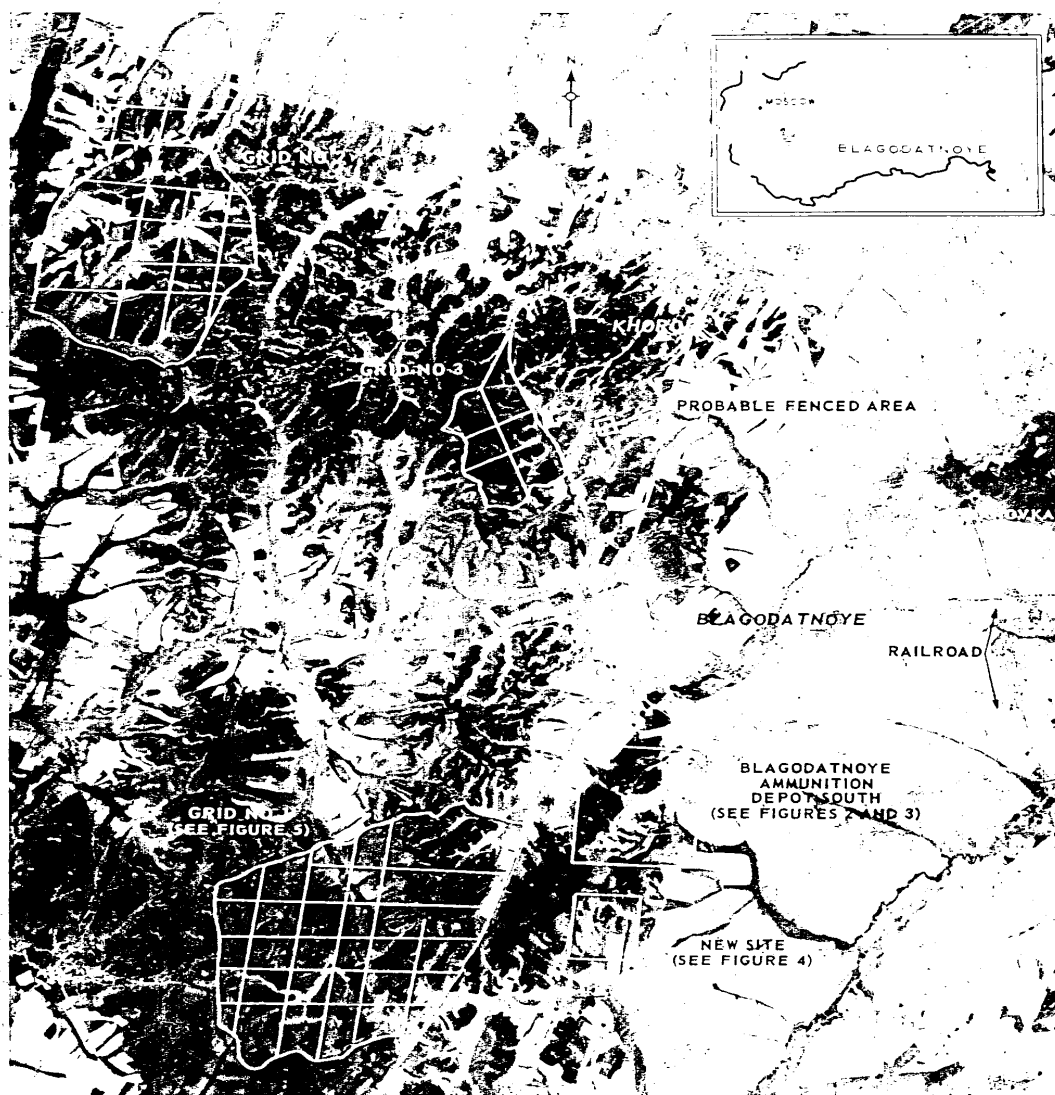


FIGURE 1. INSTALLATIONS NEAR BLAGODATNOYE, USSR, JUNE 1963.

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BLAGODATNOYE AMMUNITION DEPOT SOUTH

Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot South (BE [redacted]) is located approximately 3 nm south of the village of Blagodatnoye and about 10 nm south of the town of Khorol in Primorskiy Kray, USSR (Figure 1). The depot comprises a separately fenced warehouse area, five

bunkered storage areas, and a servicing and administration area. A rail spur from the Khabarovsk-Vladivostok section of the Trans-Siberian Railroad terminates at the depot (Figures 2 and 3).



FIGURE 2. BLAGODATNOYE AMMUNITION DEPOT SOUTH, JUNE 1963.

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Warehouse Area. The warehouse area consists of an irregular, fenced compound of about 680 acres; it contains 28 storage buildings of which 25 are set in recesses and are probably revetted. Three conventional warehouse-type buildings located in the northeastern part of the

warehouse area are not set in recesses and are probably not revetted. They measure approximately 200 by 55 feet. The other 25 storage buildings measure approximately 145 by 50 feet. Since 1954, two possible warehouses have been constructed on the western side of the

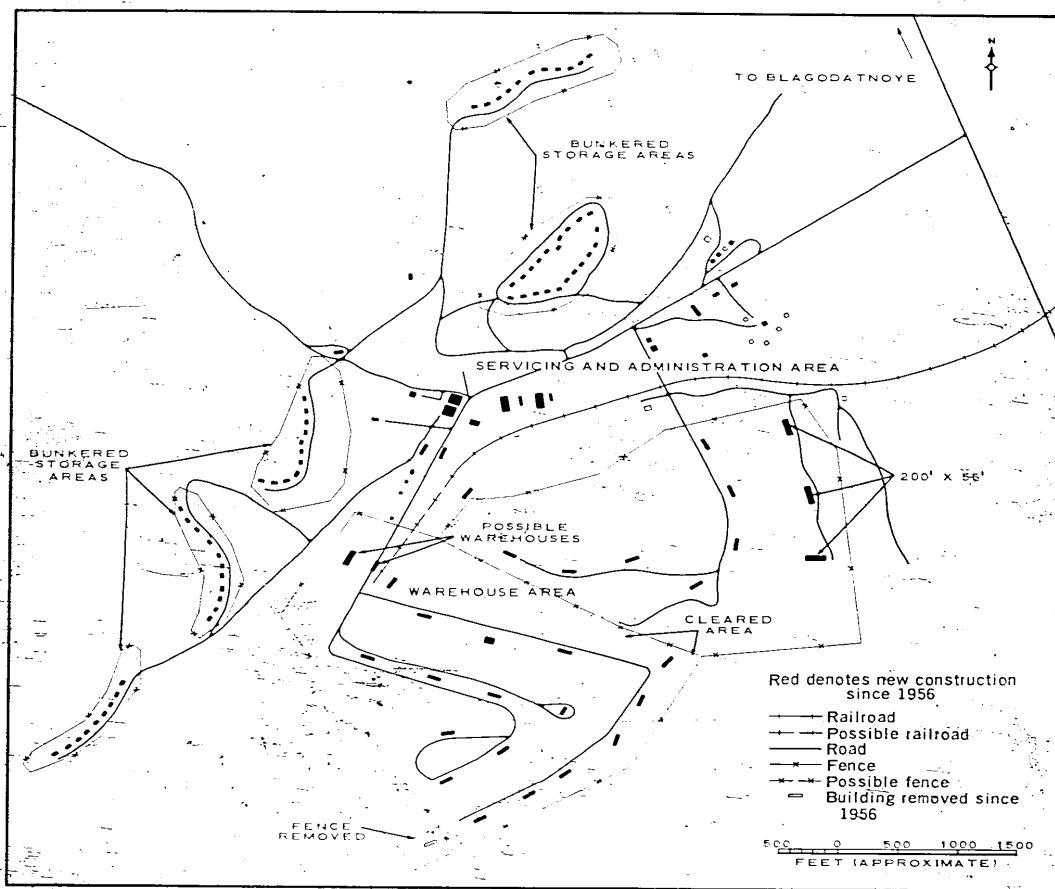


FIGURE 3. LAYOUT OF BLAGODATNOYE AMMUNITION DEPOT SOUTH.

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compound. No ventilating devices are discernible on any of the buildings. The total floor-space of the warehouses is approximately 214,250 square feet.

Bunkered Storage Areas. Approximately 63 bunkers, arranged in five groups, are located north and west of the warehouse area. Each group of bunkers is secured by a single fence. On poor-quality photography of April 1954 the bunkers appear as low, earth-mounded rectangular structures protruding a few feet above ground level; some of the bunkers are surrounded by a low earth revetment, apparently for drainage control. In 1954 and 1956 the bunkers appeared to be abandoned. Measurements made on this photography suggest that each bunker is about 40 by 20 feet; the earth mounding and associated revetments obscure the exact outlines of the structures. On photography of June 1963 the bunkers are poorly defined, irregular objects arranged in five arcuate patterns. The bunkered storage gives the impression of being little used. Inasmuch as the facility is located within

18 nm of three airfields, it is probable that the bunkers were designed and built for bomb storage.

Servicing and Administration Area. About 24 buildings are located between the warehouse and bunkered storage areas of the depot; approximately 12 of the buildings have been constructed since 1954. These buildings probably house the servicing and administration functions of the depot. The large number and varied configuration of the nonstorage-type buildings suggest that the depot is engaged in the servicing, renovation, or modification of the munitions stored there.

Security. A wide security strip has been cleared nearly all the way around the warehouse area of the depot. A possible interior fence has been erected that divides the warehouse area into approximately two equal parts. The security fence at the southern end of the warehouse area has been straightened since 1956; a storage building has been removed to permit the fence realignment.

OTHER INSTALLATIONS

New Site. A new site is situated approximately 1.5 nm south of the Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot South (Figure 1). The site consists of seven buildings of various sizes and five rectangular pads; the pads are located along a section of the access road (Figure 4). Three of the pads were present at that time. A site has no apparent relationship to the Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot South. The pads suggest parking spaces for mobile testing or metering equipment such as radars, telemetry receivers, and similar equipment. The site has none of the characteristics of a conventional ammunition or chemical warfare (CW) munitions storage site.

Grids. Three grids, observed on June 1963 photography in the vicinity of the Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot South, are designated Grids No 1, 2, and 3 (Figure 1). All three grids are located in very rough terrain, which is covered with scrub vegetation. Also, in all three grids the spacing of the grid lines is of the same order of magnitude, but the actual distances between adjacent lines are variable.

Grids No 1 and 2 are visible on earlier photography; Grid No 2, similar in area and spacing to Grid No 1, is visible on September 1961 photography and both Grids No 1 and 2 are visible on photography of April 1962. Grid No 3 is barely discernible on June 1963 photography. It is probable that this grid was more

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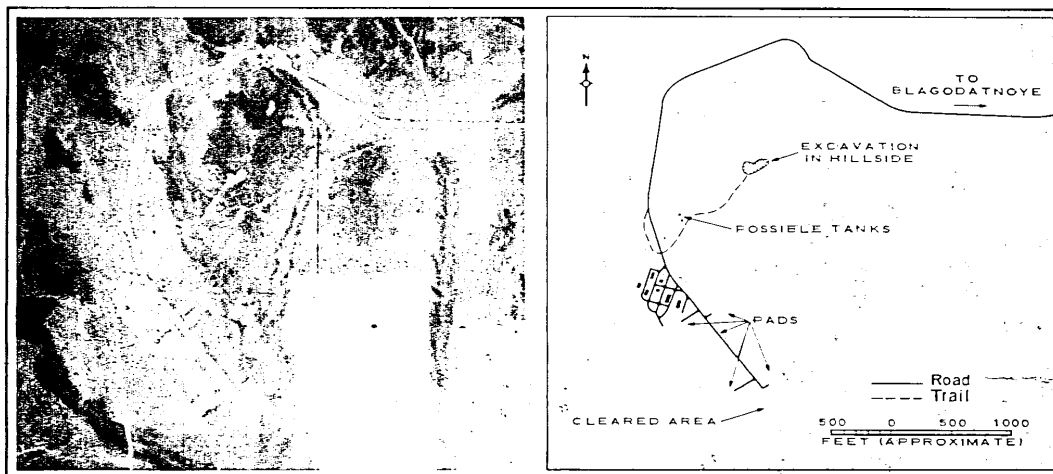


FIGURE 4. NEW SITE, JUNE 1963.

extensive in the past and has been partially effaced by erosion. The lines making up Grids No 1 and 2 are oriented in a north-south and east-west direction, while those of Grid No 3 are oriented in a northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest direction. A double cleared line around the perimeter of the two larger grids may be a firebreak or a security line under construction.

The northeastern edge of Grid No 1 is approximately 1.5 nm west of the Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot. South the grid extends westward for about 3.7 nm. Its maximum north-south dimension is about 3.3 nm. Figure 5 shows the configuration and spacing of this grid.

Probable Fenced Area. A rectangular area, approximately 500 by 600 feet, probably fenced, is situated on the southeastern edge of Grid No 3 (Figure 1). Within this area are 16 small, regularly spaced white spots which may indicate buried tanks of some kind, possibly fuel tanks for one of the nearby airfields.

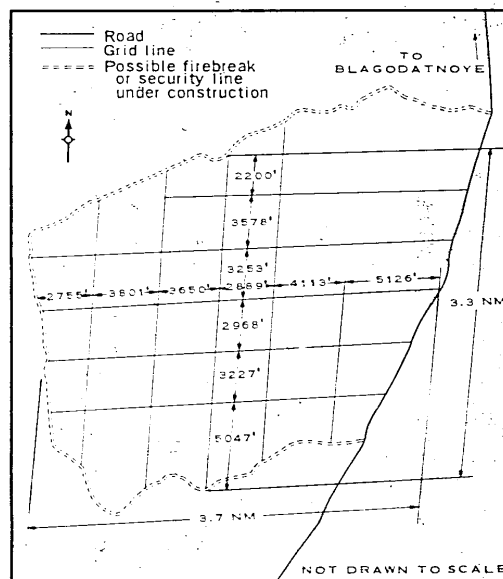


FIGURE 5. LAYOUT OF GRID NO 1.

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CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions may be drawn from the interpretations presented in this report:

1. Blagodatnoye Ammunition Depot South is probably used for storage of conventional munitions.

2. The new site south of the depot is probably not an additional storage facility and it has no apparent relationship to the depot or to the grids in the vicinity.

3. The purpose of the three grids in the vicinity of Blagodatnoye is obscure. The wide cleared areas cut around the greater part of the perimeters of the two larger grids suggest a preoccupation with the fire hazard or with security. The grids could conceivably be used in geophysical exploration programs, land subdivision, or in measuring the dispersion of toxic materials as part of military weapons tests. However, the absence of comparable grids of this type either in the United States or in other locations within the Soviet Bloc makes an assessment of their function difficult.

REFERENCES

MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC, US-Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0289-13HL, 3d ed., Jan 63, Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

CIA, G-54-S-100

NPIC PROJECT

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